

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: PASUPULETI et al.  
Title: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND  
METHODS FOR DETECTING  
HEPATITIS B VIRAL NUCLEIC  
ACIDS  
Appl. No.: 10/690,282  
Filing Date: 10/20/2003  
Examiner: Hill, Myron G.  
Art Unit: 1645  
Confirmation 4566  
Number:

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated October 11, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this document.